



# Immunization Advisory Committee

## Process and Recommendations

Washington State Board of Health

April 12, 2006



# Purpose

- The Immunization Advisory Committee (IAC) was established in December 2005 to provide recommendations to the Washington State Board of Health on criteria to determine which vaccines should be required for childcare center and/or school entry.



# Who: Immunization Stakeholders

- Public health
- School health
- Primary Care
- Child advocacy
- Medical ethics
- Consumers (parents)
- Chaired by Dr. Thorburn & Staffed by Tara Wolff



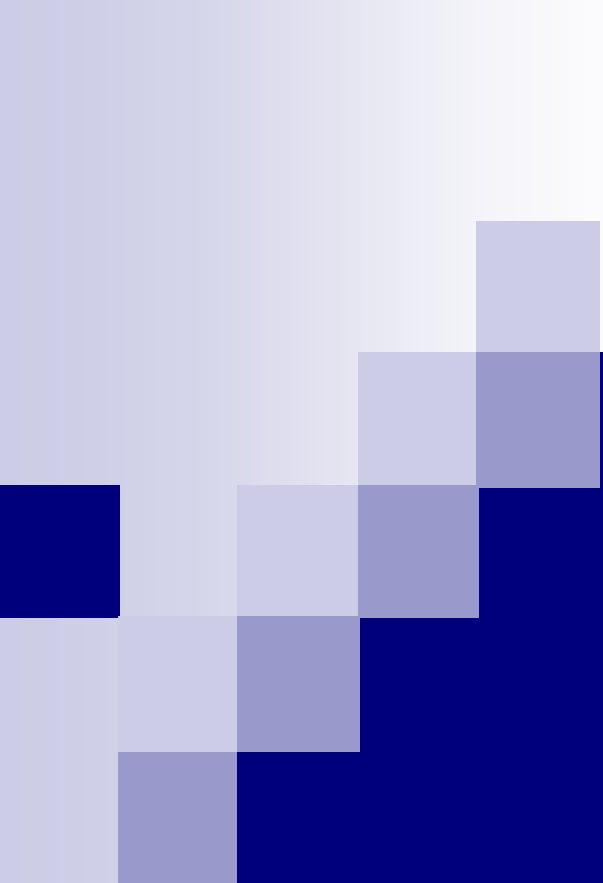
# Process

- Consensus
- The IAC met a total of three times.
- In between the second and third meeting of the IAC, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) further refined and tested the criteria against the antigen for pertussis.
- The TAG was composed of representatives from the fields of public health, primary care, epidemiology, and medical ethics.
- The TAG's work was reviewed and further refined by the IAC at their third and final meeting in March of 2006.



# Excerpts from 3 Presentations

- Harm Principle – Dr. Diekema
- Global Perspective – Dr. Marcuse
- Epidemiological Picture – Dr. Hofmann  
(will cover at end of my presentation)



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# The Harm Principle

“The only purpose for which power can rightfully be exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not a sufficient warrant.”

--John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*



# When is it justifiable to restrict individual freedom?

- When action or decision places another individual at substantial risk of serious harm.
- Restriction of freedom must be effective in preventing that harm.
- No less restrictive alternative exists that would be equally effective at preventing the harm.





# When can state action be justified?


- “Harm Principle”: State intervention (coercive) may be justified when the individual decision or action places others at substantial risk of serious harm.
- State action must be effective in preventing the harm.
- No other options less intrusive to individual liberty are available



# Global Perspective

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# Immunization Mandates

- Valuable public health tool
- Should be limited to disease of indisputable public health importance
- Rationale should be clearly stated
- Requires strong medical community support
- Should involve lay public
-  Role of industry



# Recommendations

From Immunization Advisory  
Committee



# Framework: Harm Principle adopted with clarification

- An individual's decision could place others health in jeopardy
- The state's economic interests could be threatened by the costs of care for vaccine preventable illness, related disability or death and for the cost of managing vaccine preventable disease outbreaks
- The state's duty of educating children could be compromised



# Two Assumptions

- (1) Some kind of process exists for exemption from mandated immunization requirements;
- (2) Mandated vaccine(s) with the antigen are accessible to those for whom it is mandated and cost is not a barrier. (Under the current system of universal purchasing, this would mean that the state purchases and distributes the vaccine.)



# Process

- The board reviews the proposed antigen to determine if it meets two assumptions.
- If assumptions are met, the board sponsor establishes a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to review the nine criteria against the antigen.
- The TAG examines the antigen against the nine criteria.
- These results are presented to the Board for their consideration and possible action.

# 9 Criteria

## I. Criteria on the effectiveness of the vaccine

- *1. A vaccine containing this antigen is recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and included on their recommended childhood immunization schedule.*
- *2. The antigen is effective in terms of population based prevention.*
- *3. The vaccine containing this antigen is cost effective (from a societal perspective).*
- *4. Experience to date with the vaccine containing this antigen indicates that it is safe and has an acceptable level of side effects.*



# 9 Criteria (continued)

## II. Disease Burden Criteria

- ***5. The vaccine containing this antigen prevents diseases with significant morbidity and/or mortality implications (in some sub-set of the population).***
- ***6. Vaccinating the infant, child or adolescent against this disease reduces the risk of person-to-person transmission.***

# 9 Criteria (continued)

## III. Implementation Criteria

- ***7. The vaccine is acceptable to the medical community and enjoys a high degree of public trust.***
- ***8. The administrative burdens of delivery and tracking of vaccine containing this (these) antigen(s) are reasonable.***
- ***9. The burden of compliance for the vaccine containing this antigen is reasonable for the parent/caregiver.***

# Questions?

